Weekend Special Ends Monday

Save 50% on the NEW Sleep Number 360® Limited Edition smart bed, plus enjoy free Delivery & Setup* when you add a base. Ends Monday, 11/22/21.

Learn More

Ad • Sleep Number

Yahoo Parenting

Parents of Vaccine-Injured Children Speak Out: 'The Guilt Is Huge'

Beth Greenfield · **Senior Editor**

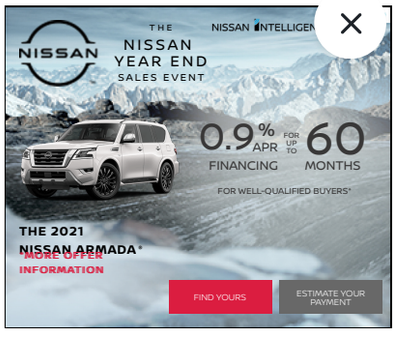
February 17, 2015

Susan Lawson and her daughter Julia. Photo courtesy of Susan Lawson.

When Susan Lawson of Colorado hears parents declaring, unequivocally, that everyone should vaccinate their children because it's perfectly safe, she says it feels "like a punch in the gut." That's because she's seen another side of the story: Her daughter Julia, now 9, was left with permanent brain damage — an injury acknowledged by a federal court payout — after receiving her MMRV (measles-mumps-rubella-varicella) shot when she was a year old.

STORY: *Why You Should, and Shouldn't, Worry About Measles*

Lawson tells Yahoo Parenting that one morning, about a week after Julia received the shot, her now-ex-husband found their daughter in a terrifying state. "She was blue and cold and her body was arched, her eyes were looking in opposite directions, and she was covered in feces and vomit," she recalls. "We thought she was dead." She was rushed to the hospital, where doctors said she was having seizures, and she was put into a medically induced coma. Julia spent many days in intensive care and the neurology ward before being sent home with the diagnosis of encephalitis, or swelling of the brain.



yahoo!
Help rid your phone of malicious apps.
Find them and delete them with Norton™ Security Online. FREE* for 30 days.
Try it free*

TRENDING

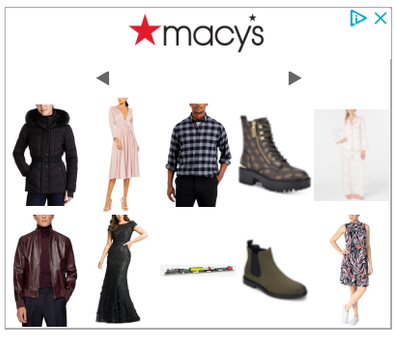
Hundreds protest Rittenhouse acquittal across US
Associated Press · 2 min read

Biden is telling allies he'll run in 2024 but one Democratic donor said many are just 'praying that...
Business Insider · 2 min read

Marine Corps compliance with vaccine mandate on course to be military's worst
Washington Post · 7 min read

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez on Why Democrats' 'Talking Points Are Not Enough'
The New York Times · 7 min read

U.S.-bound passengers stranded after emergency landing
Reuters · 2 min read



STORY: Please Vaccinate Your Healthy Kid — to Keep Mine Safe

Lawson, a veterinarian who had the utmost faith in medicine, had never before questioned vaccinations, and had always inoculated Julia right on schedule. But now she began to wonder. Hospital doctors dismissed any thought of a connection. But when Lawson asked a pediatrician about it, she was told it could be a possibility. Every family featured in this story received a payment by the United States Court of Federal Claims, which concluded that their rare injuries were caused by the vaccines.

STORY: *Should Pediatricians Refuse to Treat Unvaccinated Families?*

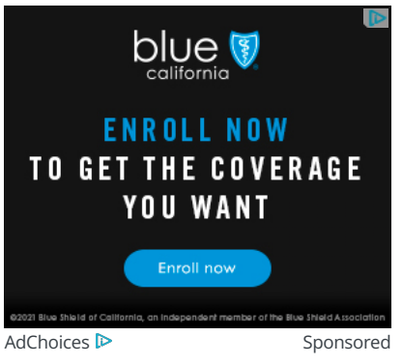
"I felt shocked, bewildered, and guilty," Lawson recalls. "We were trying to protect her, and instead I destroyed her. The guilt is huge."

The pediatrician helped Lawson file a notice through the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), a national vaccine safety surveillance program cosponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Lawson then hired a vaccine-injury attorney and began what became a trying, four-year journey through the country's National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program of the US Court of Federal Claims — a specific, no-fault forum for vaccine injuries or deaths, set up by Congress in 1986 to ensure justice for children (and, as clarified by the Supreme Court recently, to protect vaccine manufacturers from being sued). At the end of it, in 2011, Lawson was awarded nearly $1.5 million for lost future wages, future life care, and pain and

Story continues

Our goal is to create a safe and engaging place for users to connect over interests and passions. In order to improve our community experience, we are temporarily suspending article commenting

Popular in the Community



AdChoices Sponsored

RECOMMENDED STORIES

Yahoo Life

Kim Kardashian's sultry bikini photo drops jaws and raises questions: 'Did Pete take this?'

The reality star shared a shot from her "happy place" — and fans are wondering if new beau Pete Davidson played photographer.

7h ago

POPULAR

Latest weather with Leslie Lopez

KABC – Los Angeles

Top Doctor: Try This Once A Day For More Energy

Ad • Gundry MD

Our next cold front arrives late Sunday

KTRK – Houston

AccuWeather: Cloudy Sunday

WABC – NY

Naughty Boy: Who is the I'm a Celebrity contestant?

The Independent

#1 Crypto Expert Says "HURRY"

Ad • The Legacy Report

O'Rourke: Military-Style Weapons, Permitless

College Football News

Coaches Top 25 Poll powered by USA TODAY, Rankings Prediction: Week 12

What will the Coaches Poll powered by USA TODAY potentially look like? It's our prediction and best guess on what the latest rankings will be after Week 12.

16h ago

Ad • Sogoodly

Always Keep A Bread Clip With You When Traveling

I was all set for my trip, or so I thought. That's when my friend told me to place a crayon in my wallet when traveling. The reason is quite clever.

USA TODAY Sports

Ohio State jumps to No. 3, while Oregon and Michigan State fall out of top 10 in coaches poll

Ohio State rose to No. 3 in the USA TODAY AFCA Coaches Poll, while Oregon and Michigan State fell out of the top 10 after Week 12 in college football.

5h ago

The 74

How a YA Oral-Sex Scene Touched Off Texas' Latest Culture War

Kathy May was getting her four kids ready for another day at school in late October when she got an urgent voicemail from a friend. “OMG, OMG, this book,” her friend said, alerting May to a book found by another parent in the library catalogue of Keller Independent School District, where thei...

5h ago

Fighting Irish Wire

Kirk Herbstreit has new top six following Oregon’s blowout loss

What is your top six after Oregon and Michigan State were both routed Saturday?

7h ago

Ad • AutoInsurance.com

California Senior Drivers Could Be In For A Surprise

California drivers are surprised they never knew this new tip. If you live in California, you better read this.

Town & Country

Queen Elizabeth Attends the Christening of Two of Her Great-Grandchildren

August Brooksbank and Lucas Tindall were baptized in a private ceremony in Windsor today, with their great-grandmother, Queen Elizabeth present.

4h ago

Green Bay Press-Gazette

Packers win, but an empty Lambeau Field is just weird on game day

Some of the trappings of Packers game day survived Sunday, but without fans it just wasn't the same.

1d ago

PureWow

6 Things That Might Happen If You Stop Coloring or Dyeing Your Hair

Touching up your roots, brightening your base, adding partial highlights or lowlights...there are seemingly endless ways to dye your hair. And you've tried them all. Over and over again. Which makes you wonder...

8h ago

Ad • SmartAsset

San Bernardino: Bank Accounts With 7X the Average Rate

A high-interest account allows you to earn compound interest, while still having full access to your money at any time. These are our top picks.

Deadline

Peter Aykroyd Dies: ‘Saturday Night Live’ Pays Tribute To Former Cast Member & Writer

Carry Prevent Responsible Gun Ownership

HuffPost

Wild Bird Rescue names Adlai Olson as new director of rehabilitation

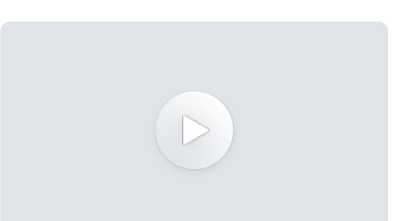
Times Record News

'This isn't freedom': Hundreds gather in Mansfield protest COVID-19 vaccine mandates

Mansfield News Journal

Here's The Average Price Of A Walk-In Tub

Ad • Netsphere | Search Ads



Great Falls Figure Skating Club hosts "learn to skate" lessons

KRTV

Explainer-All U.S. adults qualify for COVID-19 boosters; which is best?

Reuters

Atlanta airport: 'Accidental' gun discharge sends travelers fleeing, no active shooter, 3 injured: officials

Fox News

Peter Aykroyd, the Emmy-nominated former Saturday Night Live cast member and writer, has died. The NBC sketch show paid tribute to SNL alum following Simu Liu's eventful hosting debut. Saturday Night Live revealed the actor-writer's death with a card that displayed a picture of the...

15h ago

People

Chrissy Teigen Debuts New Eyebrows Following Transplant, Warns Teens to 'Not Pluck Them All Off'

The 35-year-old model called her transformation "crazy" in a series of videos on her Instagram Story on Saturday

2h ago

Consequence of Sound

Ghostbusters: Afterlife Went Too Far With Its Most Unsettling Cameo

In Jason Reitman's new sequel, the most disturbing ghost isn't Muncher. Ghostbusters: Afterlife Went Too Far With Its Most Unsettling Cameo Liz Shannon Miller

5h ago

Ad • Enhanced Refi Now

California May Pay Off Your Home If You Live Near San Bernardino

If you own a home, you should do this. Many homeowners are doing this and banks are not happy about it.

Business Insider

Kamala Harris appeared to contradict Biden, saying Kyle Rittenhouse verdict shows the criminal justice system needs to be more equitable

President Joe Biden said earlier "the jury system works" but added he felt "angry and concerned" after Kyle Rittenhouse was found not guilty.

2d ago

The Telegraph

Rory McIlroy rips his shirt in rage as he suffers calamitous meltdown in Dubai

In his almighty fury, Rory McIlroy acted more like Hulk Hogan than Ben Hogan. These were unprecedented shirt-ripping scenes more befitting to World Wrestling Entertainment than the European Tour, as the raging Northern Irishman tore apart his Nike top when his desert meltdow...

9h ago

Atlanta Black Star

When Your Privilege Runs Out: Amber Guyger's Appeal Denied for the Second Time In Three Months, Judge Upholds Her Sentence for Botham Jean's Slaying

A second appeal made on behalf of Amber Guyger, the former Dallas police officer that was convicted of killing Botham Jean in his home, has [...]

5h ago

Ad • QualifyMedicare.com

New Medicare Benefit Gives $1728 Back on SS Check

For a limited time, seniors aged 64 to 80 could claim part of their medicare cost back with this new program. See how to qualify

AccuWeather

Coldest air of the season, lake-effect snow set to blast Northeast

In the wake of a potent cold front that will track through the Northeast early Thanksgiving week, the coldest air of the season will bring temperatures plummeting to levels more typical of mid-December to the Great Lakes region and Northeast. The wintry chill will also fuel the lake-effect...

5h ago

BuzzFeed

Married People Revealed The Darkest Secrets They've Been Keeping From Their Spouses For Years, And Some Of These Are Heartbreaking

"Having children has made me hate him."View Entire Post ›

1d ago

MMA Junkie

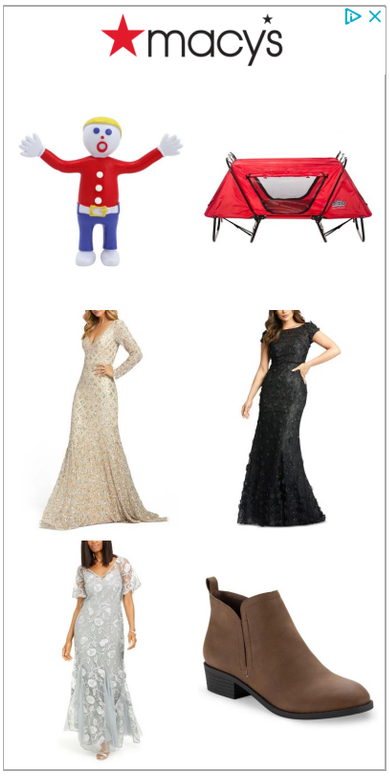
Twitter reacts to Ketlen Vieira's win over bloody Miesha Tate at UFC Fight Night 198

See the top Twitter reactions to Ketlen Vieira's win over Miesha Tate in the UFC Fight Night 198 main event.

20h ago

A-Listers Showing Off Their Epic Transformations

Ad • HistoryA2Z



Ad • Trending Gifts

Here Are 23+ Hottest Gifts Of 2021

23 Insanely Cool Gadgets You'll Regret Not Getting Before They Sell Out

NY Daily News

Warriors' Steve Kerr responds to Kyle Rittenhouse verdict: 'This is America'

Warriors' head coach Steve Kerr said what many were thinking after a jury acquitted Kyle Rittenhouse of all charges on Friday. "This is America," Kerr said Friday before his team played the Pistons. "We're treading down a dangerous path. "It wasn't a shocking verdict, but one that poses...

2d ago

The Wrap

'SNL' Cast Struggles to Keep a Straight Face in Hilarious 'Dog Head Man' Sketch (Video)

Give this dog an Emmy

17h ago

Kansas City Star

Pregnant woman gunned down while unloading baby shower gifts, Pennsylvania cops say

The woman - who was 7 months pregnant - was shot in the head and stomach, police said.

5h ago